

**SUMMERSET CITY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022 @ 2:00 P.M.  
SUMMERSET MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
7055 LEISURE LANE**

Mayor Torno called the Special Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Commissioners Kitzmiller, Butler, Hirsch, and Thurman (via zoom) were present. Also, present was the City Administrator.

Mayor Torno led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Butler asked to amend the agenda by adding the following items:

**3A) CALL FOR CHANGES** – Approval of the Agenda of the Special Meeting of the Somerset City Commission for January 23rd, 2022 as presented or amended.

**3B) INVOCATION**

**4A) PUBLIC STATEMENT**

**Motion** by Butler, second by Kitzmiller, to amend the agenda. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Kitzmiller, second by Butler, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion** by Butler, second by Hirsch, to go into executive session at 2:04 p.m. per SDCL 1-25-2 for discussing legal, economic development, and personnel issues.

**Motion** by Hirsch, second by Butler, to go out of executive session and return to special session at 2:57 p.m.

**PUBLIC STATEMENT**

Mayor Torno read the following statement:

The Commission was deeply saddened for the victim and surprised to learn about the recent legal action regarding Mr. Mandas. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those involved and impacted in that situation. Here are the facts that are related to the City of Somerset.

\* On May 6th, the Somerset Commission unanimously voted to approve the former mayor, George Mandas as a city consultant for matters related to development and Planning & Zoning and continued to do so on an as-needed basis.

\* All city employees and committee members, including the Mayor and the Commission learned of the legal action through the news article posted on NewsCenter 1 on the late afternoon of Friday January 21st, 2022. We, the city, were not privileged or informed of any information regarding this case from Mr. Mandas, legal representation, or from any government entity.

\* I, the Mayor of Somerset, had individual conversations with every Commissioner on Friday January 21st, after the release of the news article.

\* I, the Mayor of Summerset, was contacted by Mr. Mandas via telephone on the evening of Friday January 21st, 2022. It was a brief discussion regarding his position with the city and that the Commission would be making a decision on this matter.

\* I, the Mayor of Summerset, called for a special meeting and informed the City Administrator and the Commissioners on the evening of Friday January 21st of the special meeting regarding personnel issues to be scheduled for Sunday January 23rd, 2022, at 2 pm. The City Administrator posted the meeting notice on the morning of Saturday January 22nd, 2022, to allow for the 24-hour meeting notice, as required by law.

\* I, the Mayor of Summerset, received an official resignation from Mr. Mandas regarding his consulting position with the City of Summerset on the morning of Saturday January 22nd, 2022.

It is the expectation of and from the City of Summerset that our elected officials, appointed officials, and our city employees to have a high standard of character and integrity, as stated in our employee handbook and Summerset Code of Ethics. We/I also acknowledge that each of these individuals do have personal and private lives, that the city is not privileged to that information. However, if elected officials, appointed officials, and/or city employees violate our higher standard of character and integrity, the issues will be addressed swiftly, fairly, and truthfully through the appropriate protocols and procedures established through SD codified laws and city ordinances.

At this time, the City of Summerset, elected and appointed officials of Summerset, and city employees do not have any further public or private comment regarding the personal and legal issue related to Mr. Mandas.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**Motion** by Kitzmiller, second by Butler to accept the resignation of George Mandas. There being no further discussion by the Board and no public input, motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Butler, second by Hirsch, to adjourn at 3:01 p.m. Motion carried.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candace Sealey  
Finance Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Torno  
Mayor

Published once \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 at a cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.